

**MINUTES OF MEETING AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, HELD ON THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 2010 AT 11.00 AM.**

**Present**

Mrs Philippa Foster Back	Chair
Dr Adrian Fox	British Antarctic Survey and Acting Secretary
Mr Pat Geelan	<i>Expert Member</i>
Mr John Killingbeck	Royal Geographical Society
Lt Cdr Jonathan Marshall	UK Hydrographic Office
Ms Jane Rumble	Polar Regions Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Dr Mike Thomson	<i>Expert Member</i>

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Caroline Burgess, Dr Kim Crosbie, Prof. J.A. Dowdeswell (Scott Polar Research Institute), Dr John Shears and Mr Paul Woodman.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 17 March 2010**

The minutes were agreed with no amendments

**Action Points**

- **Secretary to post the minutes on the APC website**

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

i) Acting Secretary to check that the Secretary has written to Sir David Attenborough and Sir Bernard Lovell seeking their agreement to proposed names on Alexander Island, and that the secretary has received a favourable response.

ii) Acting Secretary to check the current status of the license agreement for the APC gazetteer and implement on the APC website.

**4. Secretary's report**

This was noted.

**5. Place-names decisions**

Confirmation of approval for use, by the Representative of the Commissioner for BAT, of place-names recommended at the March 2010 APC meeting was noted.

## 6. ACAN response

The Acting Secretary stated that he had not contacted ACAN following APC(10)2<sup>nd</sup> Postal because one name proposal was for South Georgia and thus outside the remit of ACAN and the other name proposal was inconclusive and for further discussion at the meeting.

### Action Points

- **Secretary to contact ACAN with the outcomes from APC(10) 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.**

## 7. APC(10) 2<sup>nd</sup> Postal.

i) APC(10)16 – New Place-name proposal, English Coast.

There was no clear consensus on this name in the Postal responses and so the Acting Secretary referred the proposal for further discussion at the meeting. Several responses wanted to accept Point C as the location of the name. However other responses pointed out that from the evidence of maps included in the proposal the original name referred to an ice shelf, and that the original name Cape Smyley had been removed by US Board of Geographic Names in 1969 when USBGN named Smyley Island.

Summary of the discussion: There was consensus amongst the members that an ice shelf promontory, which was likely to be an ephemeral feature should not be named as a Cape. The committee agreed that only Point C needed to be named and that this position fitted the description most closely. Applying the name Cape Smyley, previously used but removed by USBGN, was thought to be confusing and so the committee decided to select a new name that was appropriate to the location. It was also agreed that the generic *Cape* did not fit the shape of the feature and that *Head* would be a more appropriate generic. Noting the proximity of *Cape Marchesi*, named for Cdr Victor Marchesi, Master of the ship *William Scoresby*, the Committee decided to name the feature *Scoresby Head*.

ii) APC(10)17 – New Place-name proposal, South Georgia. The name *Cyclops Eye* was unanimously approved by the Committee. Several members commented upon the imaginative name for this exceptional feature.

### Action Points

- **Secretary to add Scoresby Head to the BAT gazetteer and amend the description of Trathan Coast to include Scoresby Head as its western boundary.**
- **Secretary to convey Committee's recommendation to Commissioner SGSSI and if approved, to add Cyclops Eye to the SG gazetteer.**
- **Secretary to write to Dr Lewis-Smith to confirm approval of the name Cyclops Eye.**

## 8. New Place-name proposals – Pensacola Mountains APC(10)18.

Professor Mike Bentley, Dept of Geography, Durham University submitted a suite of place-names proposals, comprising 12 names, for parts of the Pensacola Mountains. The existing names in this little-explored region are sparse, but mainly follow a theme of notable Antarctic scientists. Prof Bentley's proposals continue this theme focussing on geomorphologists and

glacial geologists. The Committee noted the detailed and very helpful supplementary paper by Prof. Bentley setting out the rationale for his proposals.

Before beginning discussion of the individual proposals, the Committee agreed that when proposals consisted of a suite of names clustered in a geographical area, names developing a theme would be welcomed by the APC, but the component names would be treated individually.

Clapperton Ridge:           Approved

Sugden Ridge:                Approved

Gordon Spur:                 Approved

John Glacier:                 Approved

Dark Peak:                    Approved, amended to Mount Dark to follow other nearby features.

McConnachie Rock:         Approved

Macdonald Peak:            Not approved. There are already 18 features in Antarctica named Macdonald and other variant spellings, including MacDonald Peak. Creating a new name risked adding further confusion. However, the Committee recognised the significant contribution of Prof Macdonald to Antarctic geology. Noting that his initials are D.I.M. and he is known to Antarctic geologists as 'Dimmo' the Committee decided to call the feature Dimmo Peak.

Storey Peak:                 Not approved. The Committee asked for confirmation from Prof Bentley that the feature is a significant peak, noting the substantial contribution of Prof Storey to Antarctic geology.

Mount Boyer:                Not approved. The Committee decided to amend to Mount Bentley in recognition of Prof Bentley's own contribution to Antarctic geomorphology and fieldwork in the Pensacola Mountains.

Nichols Glacier and Mercer Valley:                   Not approved. The Committee decided that these proposed names referred to scientists who already have other Antarctic features named for them and wished to avoid possible confusion from adding further names with the same specific.

Colhoun Spur:                Not approved. The Committee decided that this scientist was not associated with the BAT region and that a more relevant name could be found.

#### Action Points

- **Secretary to contact Prof Bentley to inform him of the Committee decisions, to request further information about Mount Storey and to ask him to propose alternative names for Nichols Glacier, Mercer Valley and Colhoun Spur that more closely meet the APC guideline criteria.**
- **Secretary to inform Prof Bentley of the name Mount Bentley.**

## 9. Composition of the Committee

At the previous meeting the Committee had discussed widening the membership of the APC to ensure representation from all stakeholders, particularly the UK academic and tour-ship operator communities.

The Chair reminded the Committee that one *ad hoc* member seat is vacant. The Committee decided to increase the membership of the APC by a further two *ad hoc* members and to begin recruitment for the three *ad hoc* member places. It was suggested that the three places could have different terms to avoid a loss of expertise if they all finished their terms simultaneously.

### Action Points

- Secretary to check the finish dates of the existing *ad hoc* member's term.
- Secretary to find the advert used for the previous *ad hoc* member recruitment.

## 10. Any other business

List of potential names. The Committee decided that it would be useful to have an active list of names that could be applied in cases where the proposed name could not be approved. The previous Secretary had started such a list. It was noted that the approach of the Scott centenary is likely to increase interest and awareness in Antarctic Exploration. The heroic age of exploration could provide a source of suitable names.

### Action Points

- Secretary to find and review the existing list.
- Secretary to cross-reference significant names from the history of exploration against the gazetteer to check for significant omissions, paying attention to men as well as officers.

## 11. Date of next meeting

29 March 2011 at BAS, starting at 11.00.